

Security Unit 308 deployed to Southwest Asia for 6 months in support of Operation Southern Watch in March 2002 after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The unit was able to quickly restructure and produce a 53-person detachment for harbor security operations in support of enhanced Force Protection of United States Assets in the Arabian Gulf.

The brave men and women of Port Security Unit 308 Detachment Foxtro provided around the clock anti-terrorism Force Protection for all Fifth Fleet Naval assets located in the Mina Salomon area of responsibility. Water-side patrols logged over 4300 underway hours that included 291 escorts of U.S. Fifth Fleet Naval ships along with performing 1,481 intercepts. In addition to the escorts and intercepts, over 320 inspections were conducted. During the past six months while performing AT/FP, USCG PSU 308 Detachment Foxtro was responsible for the safety of over 25,000 military personnel.

I would also like to recognize MK1 Eddie Spann and BM2 Billy Mcleod who were recognized for their outstanding performance by being selected as Sailors of the Month, June 2002, for Naval Security Forces, Naval Support Activity, Bahrain.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in a round of applause for the fine individuals who are dedicated to winning the war on terrorism.

The following members from Port Security Unit 308 deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch:

LTJG Edward Ahlstrand, PSC James Altieri, PS1 Michael Beshears, BM3 Shannon Brewer, PS2 Ronald Brown, QMC David Conner, BM3 William Courtenay, PS1 Blevin Davis, CAPT Ronald Davis, GM3 Robert Dambrino, BM3 Samuel Edwards, TCC Patricia Geistfeld, LCDR Robert Grassino, MK1 Kenneth Hall, BM3 Charles Hartley, GM3 William Harvey, BM2 Roger Holland, PS2 Darrell Holsenback, BM3 John Hughes, YN1 Brian Hutchinson, HS1 Jason Jordan, BM2 Jim Kinney, MKCM Potenciano Ladut, BM3 Gene Lipps, BM3 Bradford Margherio, PS3 Marcella McDow, BM3 James McKnight, BM2 Billy McLeod, YN2 Tamara Mims, BM3 Paul Muscat, DC3 Jonathan Pajeaud, BM3 Jonathan Phillips, BMC Lisa Pilko, BM1 Darren Rankin, LCDR Michael Rost, SK1 George Scherff, BM3 Terry Sercovich, PS3 David Simonson, PS3 Russell Shultz, PS3 Benjamin Smith, LT Robert Smyth, MK1 Eddie Spann, BM3 Jordan Stafford, ET2 Stephen Strausbaugh, BM3 James Strempel, PS2 Jon Traxler, ENS Ted Trujillo, LT Timothy Weisend, PS2 Danny Welch, GMC Edward West, GM3 Lewis West, PS3 David Wood, GM3 Joshua Yarrowborough.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. INOUE. STROM THURMOND will go down in the history of our Nation as an extraordinary citizen and an extraordinary patriot.

Few people can match his record of achievements:

He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army Reserve nearly 80 years

ago. In 1959, he retired as a major general after serving 36 years in reserve and active duty.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Thurmond boarded an Army CG4A glider and flew behind enemy lines into Normandy.

He served as Governor of South Carolina. Later, he was a candidate for President of the United States, receiving the third-largest independent electoral vote in U.S. History.

In 1954, he was elected to the U.S. Senate as a write-in candidate. Today, he is the oldest and longest serving Member of the Senate.

I have been privileged to know and work with Senator THURMOND for nearly 40 years. I wish to thank him for his wealth of wisdom. I will always cherish his friendship.

But Senator THURMOND is not only my colleague and friend, he is also my brother-in-arms. During World War II, anti-tank gunners from my regiment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, assaulted southern France in 1944. Like Senator THURMOND, they went into battle aboard gliders without armor. Glider-borne assaults were extremely dangerous and risky; some would even say they were suicidal missions. However, they were a necessary component of the United States' invasion and liberation of Nazi-occupied France.

Senator THURMOND demonstrated rare courage, patriotism, and leadership as gliderman of the 82nd Airborne Division. Most glider descents were "controlled crashes," and that was the case when Senator THURMOND's glider landed in Normandy. Although he was injured, he managed to safely lead his men to the 82nd Airborne Division headquarters at daybreak. The 82nd went on to accomplish its difficult objective of seizing and securing key positions in enemy territory.

I am pleased to report that Senator THURMOND's distinguished military service will be honored with the naming of a new section of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC. The Thurmond Wing will house an exhibit dedicated to the courageous combat gliderman of World War II.

As a Senator, STROM THURMOND has often taken positions that were not universally supported. Yet one could always be certain that his decisions were honest. He is passionate in his beliefs, and his commitment to serving his constituents has been exemplary. At the end of our service in the Congress, we, his fellow Senate Members, can only hope that we will be able to say we have served our people with the diligence and devotion that Senator THURMOND has served his people. Indeed, Senator THURMOND can leave this Chamber and say, with confidence and without hesitation, that he has faithfully served the people of South Carolina.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred April 20, 2001 in Brighton, MI. Two white men assaulted a black state trooper who was dancing with a white woman. The assailants, who did not believe that the state trooper should be dancing with a white woman, attacked the trooper and yelled racial slurs. The attackers were charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and ethnic intimidation in connection with the incident.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE DROP IN FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARMS DEALERS IN AMERICA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this week the Violence Policy Center, VPC, released a new study entitled "The Drop in Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in America." It found that the number of gun dealers holding Type 1 Federal Firearms Licenses, FFLs, a basic license to sell guns, dropped 74 percent from 245,628 in January 1994 to 63,881 in April 2002 or more than 181,000. The State of Michigan experienced the third largest reduction in the U.S., a drop of 75 percent from 12,076 dealers in 1994 to 3,016 in 2002.

According to the study, the decrease is the result of licensing and renewal criteria contained in the Brady Law and 1994 Federal crime bill. These changes were designed to reduce the number of private, unlicensed gun dealers who operate out of their homes and garages. I voted for the Brady Bill and Federal crime bill, and I am pleased that they appear to be working the way Congress intended. The study also suggests that enhanced enforcement and prosecution of gun laws at the federal, state, and local level have had a significant impact.

The drop in gun dealers is an important step in the effort to reduce firearms violence in the U.S. But despite this decline, private, unlicensed dealers are still supplying guns to gangs, drug dealers, and street criminals. In light of their findings, the Violence Policy Center proposed several recommendations to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. One of the VPC recommendations is to close the loophole